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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ENG-M9 -052

DATE: 20 JAN 1959

TO : Director of Communications

FROM : Chief, Engineering Staff, OC

SUBJECT: OC-E Monthly Report - December 1958

1. This monthly report closes another calendar year. In looking back through the year, it is obvious that we entered a new era with respect to our engineering staff support requirements.

2. We all are faced with learning new nomenclatures and operational application of some of our 1958 "children", but the impact on engineering maintenance and spare parts support is yet to be felt. The following items represent a few of these "children": KY-1, KW-26, KX-3, AS-4A, AS-5, KL-36, RS-18, AS-3, CR-1, CR-4, KE-9, not to mention [] Flexowriters, and numerous other alphabetical/numerical entities. Most of these items came into actual operational test and utilization during this year; however, considerable experience with these equipments (both operational and engineering-wise) is required before the Office can put them to use.

3. The past year saw a significant increase in our professional engineering personnel strength, due largely to an early recruiting effort by our own engineers working closely with OC-A and the Office of Personnel, and personally visiting the colleges and conducting interviews. Of course, we had to make do with what space we already had, so the end of the year finds us "cozily entrenched in Alcott Hall" with elements at Curie Hall, [redacted] 2 [redacted] etc. This "coziness" may have a later benefit, however, in that should an operation arise whereby an engineer is required in a rocket or satellite - there will be no reason to worry about claustrophobia! Our electronic technician personnel strength has also increased and will no doubt continue to do so. In both of these categories, however, it must be realized that we will not receive maximum productivity from these people for one or two years, during which time they are getting their feet on the ground through training or "osmosis".

4. Technical training in the installation and maintenance of our newer equipments and rotating the "trained" individual to the location where the equipment is currently programmed has added to

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our personnel management problems. We realize that although we will require "pure" wire equipment technicians for a considerable time, we must also train and reorient these men towards combination wire/electronic technicians. Similarly, the old line electronic technician must be "wired" so that he can maintain our new complex equipments which are used in conjunction with so-called wire, or teletype equipment.

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5. This year also witnessed the acquisition of a few pieces of real estate that directly reflected on our workload - [] and the []. The only thing in common was the effect workload-wise on MSB - they were temporarily (we hope only temporarily) snowed. The impact on both R&D, and SEB, was taken in stride. In order not to slight IMB, [] and all the Signal Centers in the Headquarters areas increased circuitry and equipment so both the installation and maintenance load has gone up. The installation of Model 28's and related crypto equipment required the expansion of our small parts room in Curie Hall.

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6. Irregular visits were made by the Chief and Deputy Chief, OC-E, to various "home bases" of the OC-E personnel. These included [] (three stops - T&I shop, teletype shop, and the [] ing), the R&D Laboratory, [] shop at Curie Hall, Alcott Hall, and shops associated with the various Signal Centers. We both are having a difficult time in arranging to visit these places on a regular basis. Between the new EOD's and the overseas returnees, we aren't always sure of who is where anyway, so maybe it is just as well!

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7. Considerable progress has been made in the past 12 months relative to our inventory controls and overall technical support procedures. FPA has been installed in [] and during the coming year, [] and the "Americas" should commence operating under the financial property accounting procedures. The initiating of BYCRED, to obtain periodic reports from all areas on specific items of equipment in stock and in use, has enabled OC to better "redeploy" our assets. The problem of identifying, cataloging, and stocking spare parts for our newer equipment will consume a greater amount of time this coming year.

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8. The equipment standardization program became more regularized and efficient this past year. The initiating of a formal means of reporting field technical installation data is evidenced by the semi-annual report BYBECI. For the first time, we can be reasonably sure of equipment in place, antenna arrangements, power capabilities, etc. Both this report and BYCRED referred to above aid not only OC-E

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personnel but also all OC Staffs and Divisions in the daily overall management of OC activities.

9. The R&D program has become more complex, both internally and externally. The result is that the "beefing up" of our Staff this past year enables us to barely carry out our responsibilities rather than to do the job in the manner that we believe it should be done. We have traveled considerably to the various external contractors but here again is an area which we would like to have more frequent inspections. "The squeaking wheel gets the grease" applies to this area of endeavor. To insure that the proper effort is given by the contractor to our projects, frequent visits are necessary. Lacking same, our projects are sometimes given a lower priority than we would like.

10. So, in drawing to the close of another year, although we cannot single out any one major item of significance, we can see that progress has been made and that our responsibilities to the Office of Communications are becoming more complex. This in turn emphasizes that the various Branches in OC-E instead of operating as individual entities, now operate in increased co-ordination with each other as each project or activity makes use of all of our "specialties". This is also true of our Engineering Staff relationship with the other OC Staffs and Divisions. This past year evidenced an increased requirement for team effort by all OC Staffs and Divisions (AS-4A program, KW-26 program radiation studies, to cite a few) and looking to the New Year, we will direct our efforts to further development of this team effort, recognizing that operations are becoming more technical and that automation is overtaking the hand key. Consequently, we anticipate added responsibility in insuring that the proper engineering guidance will continue to be furnished the OC operational elements.

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